



NEWS RELEASE

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New fire station opens in Hampton

The City of Hampton is celebrating the opening of Fire Station 11, its first new fire station in 24 years. The station, located at 1304 Big Bethel Road, became operational July 1.

The station serves 1,100 residential and commercial buildings in the northwest quadrant of the city, previously served by Northampton Station 6 and Marcella Station 10. Its service area encompasses the Big Bethel Road corridor from the York County line to Michael's Woods, Hampton Roads Center Parkway to Magruder Boulevard, Saunders Road to the Newport News line and I-64 to Mercury Boulevard.

A response time study identified the Big Bethel Road corridor as the best location for a new station. Along with reducing demands on other stations, the new fire station will reduce response times for the corridor from 6-12 minutes to 4 minutes.

"This facility will help the Division meet the national response time standard of four minute travel time 90% of the time," said Fire Chief David Layman. "We have looked forward to this facility coming on-line and its impact on improving the delivery of emergency services to the citizens of Hampton."

The new station is estimated to reduce call volume for the Northampton Station by 16 percent and the Marcella Station by 7 percent.

"It has taken everyone by surprise how busy the station has been in relation to call volume in the weeks it has been in operation. It has certainly already proven its necessity and relevance," said Cpt. Ryan Driscoll of Hampton Fire and Rescue.

Features of the 14,500-square-foot station include three apparatus bays; six individual sleep rooms, each with a bathroom and shower; exercise room; in-eat kitchen; and training/community room, which will be available for public use when not being used by the department.

The city broke ground on the station in early 2011. The building is built to withstand a category 3 hurricane, and is slated to house a remote emergency operations center. It also has environmentally-friendly features such as geothermal walls, low voltage lighting, automatic light shut-offs, high efficiency hot water systems and insulated, tinted windows. Construction cost \$3.2 million.

A **ribbon cutting ceremony** will be held **Aug. 7 at 10 a.m.** Mayor Molly Ward, Chief Layman and City Manager Mary Bunting will be available for interviews. The city will also be hosting an **open house** for the public that day from **noon to 4 p.m.** with refreshments, station tours and prize drawings.